AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing driving assistance to a driver of a vehicle, comprising:

obtaining [[a]] composite lane information regarding a road lane in which the vehicle is traveling, wherein the composite lane information is derived from at least two characterizing information items regarding the road lane; and

triggering at least one of an output of driver-assistance information and a vehicle-control action based on the composite lane information;

wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on at least one of the following: a preceding vehicle or an oncoming vehicle, tracks of a preceding vehicle, a lane boundary, a barrier or a guardrail, and a curb or other road edge structure.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on lane boundary markings detected from an image of the road lane obtained using a camera.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on objects detected from the image of the road lane.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on at least one of an oncoming vehicle, a preceding vehicle, and a stationary object that marks a boundary of the road lane.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on tracks of a preceding vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein each information used to derive the composite lane information is assigned a quality index value.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the assigned quality index value for each information used to derive the composite lane information is considered for deriving the composite lane information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quality index value is derived from at least one a contrast of the image and a deviation between stored estimated lane boundary data and measured lane boundary data.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the composite lane information and the assigned quality index values are transmitted to an analyzer unit for analysis.

21. (Currently Amended) A driver assistance system for a driver of a vehicle, comprising:

an image sensor unit for obtaining an image of a road lane in which the vehicle is traveling:

an analyzer unit for obtaining a composite lane information regarding the road lane in which the vehicle is traveling, wherein the composite lane information is derived from at least two characterizing information items regarding the road lane; and

a control unit for triggering at least one of an output of driver-assistance information and a vehicle-control action based on the composite lane information;

wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on at least one of the following: a preceding vehicle or an oncoming vehicle, tracks of a preceding vehicle, a lane boundary, a barrier or a guardrail, and a curb or other road edge structure.

22. (Previously Presented) The driver assistance system as recited in claim 21, wherein the analyzer unit ascertains a quality index value for each characterizing information regarding the road lane used to derive the composite lane information.

23. (New) The driver assistance system as recited in claim 21, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on tracks of a preceding vehicle.

24. (New) A method for providing driver assistance based on lane information, the method comprising:

determining the lane information using image information from a camera, wherein the lane information includes first track data and additional track data,;

triggering one of driver information and a steering intervention based on the lane information, wherein the first track data are determined based on image information concerning lane edge markings, wherein the additional track data are determined based on other information based on the image information from the camera, the other information being alternative to the lane edge markings, from which a course of the roadway is derived, and wherein the first track data and the additional track data are brought together to form the track data used for providing driver assistance.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the other information includes at least one of the following: a preceding vehicle or oncoming vehicle, tracks of a preceding vehicle, a lane boundary, a barrier or a guardrail, and a curb or other roadway edge structure.

26. (New) A device for providing driver assistance based on lane information, comprising:

a determining arrangement to determine the lane information using image information from a camera, wherein the lane information includes first track data and additional track data;

a triggering arrangement to trigger one of driver information and a steering intervention based on the lane information, wherein the first track data are determined based on image information concerning lane edge markings, wherein the additional track data are determined based on other information based on the image information from the camera, the other information being alternative to the lane edge markings, from which a course of the roadway is derived, and wherein the first track data and the additional track data are brought together to form the track data used for providing driver assistance.

27. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the other information includes at least one of the following: a preceding vehicle or oncoming vehicle, tracks of a preceding vehicle, a lane boundary, a barrier or a guardrail, and a curb or other roadway edge structure.